(ङ) आरक्षण की सुविधा कब तक उपलब्ध करा दी जायेगी?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) टिकटों की बिक्री बहुत कम है जिससे आरक्षण कोटे के आबंटन औचित्य नहीं बनता है।

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Leasing of Railway Land for Resource Mobilisation

3777. DR. MOHAN BASU: Will the Minister of RIILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to lease out the lands owned by them for mobilisation of resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated annual income likely to accrue to the railway's from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pending Cases against Railways under the Consumer (Protection) Act

3778. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending under the Consumer (Protection) Act against the Railways;

(b) whether the Railways have identified those responsible for providing deficient or negligent service and recovered the damages paid by the Railways on the verdict of the consumer court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total number of cases pending against the Railways under the Consumer (Protection) Act is 2967.

(b) Yes, practice already exists to identify the staff responsible for providing deficient/negligent service and steps taken to recover damages paid by the Railways on the verdict of Consumer Courts, wherever justified.

(c) A sum of about Rs. 1,00,000/- has been recovered from the staff held responsible for providing deficient/ negligent services.

Declaration of 1997 as 'TB control year' in Railways

3779. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared 1997 as 'TB control year' in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the railway hospitals which are proposed for providing specialised treatment of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year activities directed at reduction in default rate in treatment, case detection drives and intensive education of Railway population on tuberculosis would be undertaken on all Railways.

(c) 68 chest clinics situated mainly in the divisional and Zonal Railway Hospitals provide treatment of tuberculosis.

Refund Claims pending settlement in Divisional Railway Offices in Gujarat

3780. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of refund claims pending settlement at the Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar Divisional Railway Offices and break-up of the pendency of the said claims;

(b) the time-limit fixed for settlement of the claims;

(c) whether the audit has pointed out any shortcomings/deficiencies in the system of settling claims; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No refund-claim cases are pending on these Divisional Railway Offices. All cases pertaining to refund are dealt with at Headquarters Office, Bombay. The claim cases for refund pending settlement pertaining to these Divisional Offices are as under:—

Ahmedabad	68
Vadodara	Nil
Rajkot	103
Bhavnagar	58

In addition 636 cases of ticket refunds are pending. However, the record of such cases is not maintained Division-wise.

(b) 30 days.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All out efforts are made to settle the refund-claims cases within the target time.

Restriction on Sale of Railway Time Tables

3781. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction on the sale of All India Time Tables (At a glance) as well as Zonal Railway Time Tables, published by private parties, on book stalls at Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Book Stalls at Railway Stations sell official publication/authorised private publication of the Railway Time Tables. W. Newman & Co. Ltd. are authorised private publishers for All India Railway Time Table. Railway Time Table Office, Varanasi, are authorised publishers for Hindi version of Trains at a Glance. Zonal Railways are authorised publishers of their respective Zonal Time Tables. However, Trains at a Glance, a publication of the Ministry of Railways is covered under copyright Act.

Earnest Money for vending contract at Railway Stations

3782. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased tos tate:

(a) whether there is any policy for depositing money as earnest money while applying for a vending contract at Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Zonal Railways are following the practice of collecting earnest money from the applicants for award of catering/vending licences. Such earnest money is refunded to the unsuccessful applicants after the allotment of licence.

More AC-First Class Coaches in A.P. and T.N. Expresses

3783. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more AC-First Class Coaches will be attached to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Express Trains;

(b) why is this long pending demand not yet considered; and

(c) by when will it be actually implemented?